

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the Abstract, specification and claims 1 and 3-15 are amended, claims 16-28 are added, and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Abstract, specification and claims are amended for clarification purposes only. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Informalities

The Office Action objects to claim 6 due to an informality. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 6 are responsive to the Examiner's comments, and thus the objection should be withdrawn.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hughes in view of Appleton. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a washing machine which includes a detergent box assembly. Independent claim 1 recites that the detergent box assembly includes a detergent box configured to be positioned in an opening formed in the top plate, the detergent box having a plurality of first bosses extending upward. Independent claim 1 also recites that the detergent box assembly includes a cover frame configured to be positioned atop the detergent box and having a plurality of second bosses corresponding to the plurality of first bosses, wherein the plurality of second bosses extend downward from the cover frame such that each second boss is

partially inserted into a corresponding first boss. Hughes neither discloses nor suggests at least such features, let alone the claimed combination of features.

Hughes discloses a washing machine 10 with a detergent dispenser (not shown) that is accessible through a door 14 in a top panel 13 of the machine 10. Hughes is silent as to the size, shape, configuration and installation of the dispenser, and thus it is respectfully submitted that Hughes neither discloses nor suggests that the dispenser includes a detergent box and a cover frame, as asserted in the Office Action, let alone first and second bosses, as acknowledged in the Office Action. Further, Appleton fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hughes.

Appleton discloses a fully grounded electrical enclosure 10 intended for use with electrical conduit. The enclosure includes a box 12, and a cover 14 fixed to the box 12 by screws 20 which extend through holes 16 in the cover 14 and into holes 18 in the box 12. Various inserts in the box 12, including a metallic inserts 30 and 52, provide ground continuity to an electrical component which extends through a central hole 22 in the cover 14.

It is respectfully submitted that there would have been no motivation to combine the box 12 and cover 14, or the associated fastening scheme, disclosed by Appleton, with the washing machine 10 and dispenser allegedly disclosed by Hughes. More particularly, Appleton's enclosure 10 is specifically designed for use with electrical components, which are inherently damaged by the moisture/water/detergent to which it would be subjected when in use as a detergent dispenser in a washing machine. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the washing machine art would not look to the electrical arts (and particularly to Insulators and Conductors/With Grounding Means) in developing a detergent box assembly for use with a washing machine. Further, once the screws 20 are inserted through the holes 16 and 18, the cover 14 is

permanently fixed to the box 12. Such an arrangement would be untenable in a detergent dispenser for a washing machine, as the cover would need to be regularly removed to insert more detergent.

However, even if one were to improperly combine the washing machine 10 disclosed by Hughes with the enclosure 10 and associated fastening scheme disclosed by Appleton, Appleton still fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hughes. More specifically, when assembling the enclosure 10, projections 40, 42 extending from the cover 14 are inserted into slots 44, 46 in the box 12. Screws 20 are then inserted through the holes 16 in the cover 14 and into the holes 18 in the box 12 to fix the cover 14 to the box 12. Appleton neither discloses nor suggests that the holes 16 (or the distal end 34 of the insert 30 in which they are formed) extend into the holes 18. Thus, Appleton neither discloses nor suggests a cover frame which has a plurality of second bosses which extend downward such that each second boss is partially inserted into a corresponding first boss formed in a detergent box, as recited in independent claim 1.

Appleton discloses in Figures 4-5 an exploded view of the coupling of the metallic insert 30 to the metallic insert 52. The insert 30 is positioned above the insert 52, with the distal ends 34 of four outwardly extending legs 32 facing metallic seats 50 of the insert 52. Spacing bosses 38 are positioned between the ends 34 of the legs 32 and the seats 50. The screws 20 extend through the holes 16 in the cover 14 and the insert 30, press against the spacing bosses 38 to exert pressure on the seats 50 and provide electrical contact therebetween (see column 3, lines 56-61, column 4, lines 9-13 and 47-52 and Figures 4-6a of Appleton). The Office Action asserts that seats 50 are comparable to the claimed plurality of first bosses that extend upward, and that the distal ends 34 of the legs 32 are comparable to the plurality of second bosses that extend

downward. However, the seats 50 and the distal ends 34 of the legs 32 are clearly separated by the spacing bosses 38, and therefore the distal ends 34 of the legs 32 are prohibited from being inserted, even partially, into the seats 50. Thus, Appleton neither discloses nor suggests second bosses that are partially inserted into corresponding first bosses, as recited in independent claim 1.

For all of these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hughes and Appleton should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-4 and 7 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejects claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hughes in view of Appleton, and further in view of convention. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 5 and 6 are allowable over Hughes at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Further, as set forth above, Appleton fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hughes. The Office Action asserts that hooks are a common means for fastening and hanging, and that it would have been obvious to modify Hughes and Appleton to use hooks as a means to fasten or hang the detergent dispenser to the machine. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Hughes is completely silent as to the size, shape or installation of the detergent dispenser (not shown) which is allegedly accessible through the door 16 in the top panel 13 of the disclosed washing machine 10. As Hughes provides no information as to the configuration of the detergent dispenser, it is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to

provide for such an installation using hooks, as it is unknown as to whether or not the installation scenario lends itself to the use of hooks, nor that such hooks would adequately support the dispenser.

Further, as set forth above, there would have been no motivation to modify the washing machine 10 disclosed by Hughes with the electrical enclosure 10 disclosed by Appleton. Appleton discloses that the electrical enclosure 10 is supported in its installation position by fixation of an electrical component (not shown) through a centrally located hole 22. It is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to modify Appleton's device to include hooks, either in the electrical component or in the hole 22 to which it is affixed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5 and 6 are not obvious, and thus allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hughes and Schober should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 8 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hughes in view of Schober. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 8 is directed to a washing machine which includes a detergent box assembly. Independent claim 8 recited that the detergent box assembly includes a detergent box configured to be positioned in an opening in the top plate which includes a bent part extending downward from a peripheral edge of the opening, wherein the detergent box is coupled to the bent part by a hanging device, and a cover frame having a rim configured to be positioned on an upper surface of the top plate, along a peripheral edge of the opening. As set forth above, Hughes neither discloses nor suggests such at least such features, let alone the claimed combination of features.

More specifically, Hughes neither discloses nor suggests that the alleged dispenser accessible through the door 16 includes both a detergent box and a cover frame, nor that the top panel 13 includes a bent part extending downward from a peripheral edge of an opening therein, as recited in independent claim 8. Further, Schober is merely cited as allegedly teaching a cover frame which is fit into a bent lower portion of a top plate of a washing machine, and thus fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hughes.

Schober discloses a design for a cap for a washing machine additive dispenser. Based on Figures 1-7 of Schober (and particularly, Figures 3-6) it appears that the cap fits into some type of opening. However, because only the cap is shown, it is unknown as to whether that opening is in a top or side panel of the washing machine. Further, based on the insertion holes shown in the bottom view in Figure 7 of Schober, it appears that the cap is fixed to a flat horizontal surface, and not to any type of bent portion which extends downward from the top panel. Thus, Schober neither discloses nor suggests a detergent box which is coupled to a bent part in an opening in a top plate which extends downward from the top plate, as recited in independent claim 8, let alone by a hanging device, as recited in independent claim 8.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 8 is allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of independent claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hughes and Schober should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 13-15 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 8, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hughes in view of Schober, and further in view of convention. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claim 9 is allowable over Hughes at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 8, from which it depends, as well as for its added features. Further, as set forth above, Schober fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hughes. The Office Action asserts that hooks are a common means for fastening and hanging, and that it would have been obvious to modify Hughes and Schober to use hooks as a means to fasten or hang the detergent dispenser to the machine. As set forth above, Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Office Action rejects claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hughes and Schober in view of Appleton. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 10-12 are allowable over Hughes and Schober at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 8, from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Further, as set forth above, Appleton fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hughes and Schober. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10-12 are allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hughes, Schober and Appleton should be withdrawn.

III. New Claims 16-28

New claims 16-28 are added to the application. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 16-28 also define over the applied prior art references and meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

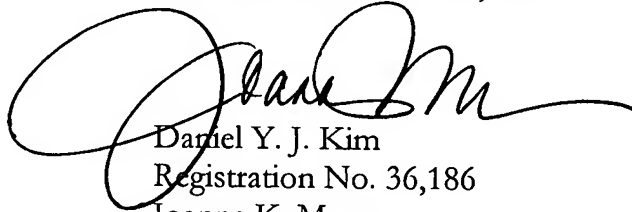
IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Joanna K. Mason**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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